Dear Sir,

I am in favor of repairable equipment for the following:

It is my understanding that one of the main purposes of amateur radio was
to develop and maintain a reservoir of trained technical people of
communication equipment that could respond to a national emergency.

As it stands now, we have been reduced to "appliance operators" not by the
de-emphasizing of CW but by the construction practices of ham equipment
suppliers. All you can do is turn it on and off.

I have an IC 706, a great little box. But Lord have mercy when it quits.
Mine lost frequency accuracy. The first thing I looked for was the
schematic. Remember when it was always in the back of the manual? Well, not
any more.

I took the cover off. Bad news! I couldn't do anything even if I did have
the schematic. Packed it up and sent it back. Four weeks later when it was
returned, the repair notice said that a diode was faulty. Now I know
diodes, the types and functions and have confidence that I could have
repaired it myself. But, I felt (am) helpless when faced with surface
mounted components and three to five layer circuit boards, sandwiched
together.

HELP   We are being dumbed down through no fault of our own and to the
detriment of the country.

Yes, I know there will be a loud hue and cry from the manufactures.

Yes, it will cost a little more. If the computer industry is used as an
example of cost and function, then maybe the cost would not be that much
greater.

Yes, they will be larger, maybe 3 to 4 times bigger. But who is going to
live on the space station anyway?
Again the computer industry construction concept could be used with the
mother board containing the output stage, display and operator interface
circuitry, a buss with spare slots, and modules for synthesizer, audio, and
other functions.

HT's and mobiles could be exempt because size is important in those
applications.

I realize that financial and political considerations are the driving
forces behind these decisions, and that technical merit carries little weight.

BUT, wouldn't it be nice.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely

Tom Denham K8VOE